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Marc Ira Lipton

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Peter C. Breen
BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. BOX 10395
CHICAGO, IL 60610

EXAMINER

LINDSEY, MATTHEW S

ART UNIT

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/804,542	Applicant(s) LIPTON, MARC IRA	
	Examiner MATTHEW S. LINDSEY	Art Unit 2451	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 August 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 20-23, 25-27, 29-31 and 33-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 20-23, 25-27, 29-31 and 33-35 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 20-23, 25-27, 29-31 and 33-35 are pending in this application. Claims 24, 28, 32 and 36 are cancelled; and Claims 20-23, 25-27, 29-31, 33 and 35 are amended, as filed on 26 August 2008.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 22 is objected to because of the following informalities: the claim recites the limitation "determining the group of members associated the said user". According to claims with a similar limitation (claim 27), for the purposes of examination this limitation will be treated as: "determining the group of members associated with the user".

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 20-23, 25-27, 29-31 and 33-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aravamudan et al. (US 6,301,609 B1) in view of Ogle et al. (US 6,430,604 B1).

5. With respect to claim 20, Aravamudan discloses: “A method comprising: receiving a telephone call (Col. 7, lines 1-4, where a user utilizes a CPE to connect to a network, and the CPE may be a wired telephone, screen phone, or wireless cellular phone according to Col. 3, lines 28-35, and as such the communication services platform can receive a phone call);

identifying a user making the telephone call (Col 7, lines 21-22, where a users’ presence online is detected);

detecting an online status of at least one member of a group associated with the user (Col. 7, lines 21-22, and 26-29, where a pending event can be detecting the status of selected buddies as identified by the user)”, and

“communicating the status of the at least one member of the group over the telephone call (Col. 7, lines 37-40).

Aravamudan did not explicitly state: “audibly communicating”.

However, Ogle disclosed: “audibly communicating (Col. 9, lines 43-51, where a textual message passes through a text to speech transformer and becomes a voice message)”.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine the unified messaging system of Aravamudan with the alternative messaging system of Ogle since they both disclose teachings of delivering messages to users on different devices, which may not use the same method for communication.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the unified messaging system of Aravamudan with the teachings of Ogle to include support for audibly communicating information. Motivation to combine these comes from Ogle where: "This would be the case, for example, where the textual message created by the sender is to be delivered through a non textual mechanism such as a regular phone" (Col. 9, lines 45-47). Therefore, by combining the references, one would be able to receive textual information in a voice mode from a regular phone not capable of receiving textual messages.

6. With respect to claim 25, Aravamudan discloses: "A method comprising: receiving a telephone call (Col. 7, lines 1-4, where a user utilizes a CPE to connect to a network, and the CPE may be a wired telephone, screen phone, or wireless cellular phone according to Col. 3, lines 28-35, and as such the communication services platform can receive a phone call);

identifying a user making the telephone call (Col 7, lines 21-22, where a users' presence online is detected);

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receiving instructions to detect an online status of at least a first member and a second member associated with the user (Col. 7, lines 21-22, and 26-29, where a pending event can be detecting the status of selected buddies as identified by the user);

detecting the first member of the group is online (Col. 7, line 29, where a first buddy can be online);

detecting the second member of the group is off-line (Col. 7, line 29, where it is conceivable that there will be a situation when out of two users the first will be online and the second will be offline)", and

"communicating the detected status of the first member and the detected status of the second member over the telephone call (Col. 7, lines 37-40)".

Aravamudan did not explicitly state: "audibly communicating".

However, Ogle disclosed: "audibly communicating (Col. 9, lines 43-51, where a textual message passes through a text to speech transformer and becomes a voice message)".

One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine the unified messaging system of Aravamudan with the alternative messaging system of Ogle since they both disclose teachings of delivering messages to users on different devices, which may not use the same method for communication.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the unified messaging system of Aravamudan with the teachings of Ogle to include support for audibly communicating information. Motivation

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to combine these comes from Ogle where: "This would be the case, for example, where the textual message created by the sender is to be delivered through a non textual mechanism such as a regular phone" (Col. 9, lines 45-47). Therefore, by combining the references, one would be able to receive textual information in a voice mode from a regular phone not capable of receiving textual messages.

7. With respect to Claim 29, Aravamudan discloses: "A computer-readable storage medium comprising a set of instructions to direct a processor (Col. 12, lines 9-13) to perform acts of: receiving a telephone call (Col. 7, lines 1-4, where a user utilizes a CPE to connect to a network, and the CPE may be a wired telephone, screen phone, or wireless cellular phone according to Col. 3, lines 28-35, and as such the communication services platform can receive a phone call);

identifying a user making the telephone call (Col 7, lines 21-22, where a users' presence online is detected);

determining a group of members associated with the user (Col. 7, line 29, specifically "selected buddies as identified by the user");

detecting an online status of at least one member of the group (Col. 7, lines 21-22, and 26-29, where a pending event can be detecting the status of selected buddies as identified by the user)", and

"communicating the status of the at least one member of the group over the telephone call (Col. 7, lines 37-40)".

Aravamudan did not explicitly state: "audibly communicating".

However, Ogle disclosed: “audibly communicating (Col. 9, lines 43-51, where a textual message passes through a text to speech transformer and becomes a voice message)”.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine the unified messaging system of Aravamudan with the alternative messaging system of Ogle since they both disclose teachings of delivering messages to users on different devices, which may not use the same method for communication.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the unified messaging system of Aravamudan with the teachings of Ogle to include support for audibly communicating information. Motivation to combine these comes from Ogle where: “This would be the case, for example, where the textual message created by the sender is to be delivered through a non textual mechanism such as a regular phone” (Col. 9, lines 45-47). Therefore, by combining the references, one would be able to receive textual information in a voice mode from a regular phone not capable of receiving textual messages.

8. With respect to claim 33, Aravamudan discloses: “A method comprising: detecting an online status of a user (Col. 7, lines 21-22, and 26-29, where a pending event can be detecting the status of selected buddies as identified by the user);

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determining that a first member of a group associated with the user is off-line (Col. 7, line 29, where it is inherent the status of a first member of the group could be off-line);

storing a notification message of the online status of the user in a storage device (Col. 6, lines 27-29);

receiving a telephone call from the first member (Col. 7, lines 1-4, where a user utilizes a CPE to connect to a network, and the CPE may be a wired telephone, screen phone, or wireless cellular phone according to Col. 3, lines 28-35, and as such the communication services platform can receive a phone call)", and

"communicating the notification message stored in the storage device over the telephone call (Col. 7, lines 37-40)".

Aravamudan did not explicitly state: "audibly communicating".

However, Ogle disclosed: "audibly communicating (Col. 9, lines 43-51, where a textual message passes through a text to speech transformer and becomes a voice message)".

One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine the unified messaging system of Aravamudan with the alternative messaging system of Ogle since they both disclose teachings of delivering messages to users on different devices, which may not use the same method for communication.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the unified messaging system of Aravamudan with the

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teachings of Ogle to include support for audibly communicating information. Motivation to combine these comes from Ogle where: "This would be the case, for example, where the textual message created by the sender is to be delivered through a non textual mechanism such as a regular phone" (Col. 9, lines 45-47). Therefore, by combining the references, one would be able to receive textual information in a voice mode from a regular phone not capable of receiving textual messages.

9. With respect to claims 21, 26, 30 and 35, the combination of Aravamudan and Ogle disclosed: "further comprising: receiving a password of the user (Aravamudan, Col. 6, line 39, where a user chooses a password, and it is well known in the art that a username and password can be used to identify a user)".

With respect to claims 22 and 27, the combination of Aravamudan and Ogle disclosed: "further comprising: determining the group of members associated with the user (Aravamudan, Col. 7, line 29, where the user identifies selected buddies)".

With respect to claims 23 and 31, the combination of Aravamudan and Ogle disclosed: "further comprising: receiving instructions to detect an online status of the at least one member of the group (Aravamudan, Col. 7, line 29, where the pending event is status of selected buddies identified by the user, indicating the system received instructions from the user to perform this event)".

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With respect to claim 34, the combination of Aravamudan and Ogle disclosed: "The method of Claim 33 further comprising: determining a user-initiated notification option is enabled (Aravamudan, Col. 7, line 27, specifically "as identified by the user")".

Response to Arguments

10. Applicant's arguments, see pg 5, II Rejections Under 35 USC 101, filed 26 August 2008, with respect to Claim rejections of Claims 29-32 under 35 USC 101 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection under 35 USC 101 of claims 29-31 has been withdrawn.

11. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 20, 25, 29 and 33 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

12. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

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TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MATTHEW S. LINDSEY whose telephone number is (571)270-3811. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs 7-5, Fridays 7-12.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Follansbee can be reached on (571) 272-3964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

MSL
11/12/2008

/John Follansbee/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2451